



GSA National Capital Region

JUL 26 2012

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

Dear Representative Connolly:

Thank you for your letter dated June 21, 2012, in response to my letter of June 13, 2012, requesting a timeline for the mitigation strategies the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pursuing to address noise concerns associated with the GSA leased facility, located at 801 Follin Lane, Vienna, Virginia. The building is owned by Pearlmark Goldstar LLC ("Goldstar"), a private corporation.

GSA is aware of the noise objections being raised by nearby residents in Vienna, and is presently working hard to resolve this problem as soon as possible. When the issue first arose, we understood that Goldstar had assumed responsibility to resolve it and was working with Vienna officials toward that end. When no solution was forthcoming, we intervened.

After considering a variety of alternatives, we have identified a course of action that will reduce the noise problem in the short term and provide a long term solution that will eliminate the problem, and will not impair the operations of the facility. It is estimated that this process will be completed in six months.

Since the week of June 24, 2012, we worked with Goldstar and the FBI to reduce the number of fans that were running on the dry cooler units under normal weather conditions. On the night of July 1, 2012, testing was conducted to establish the effects of the operational parameters on both the volume and tonal quality of the sound. We believe that, with the exception of extremely hot weather events, these actions will reduce the noise level by about one-third.

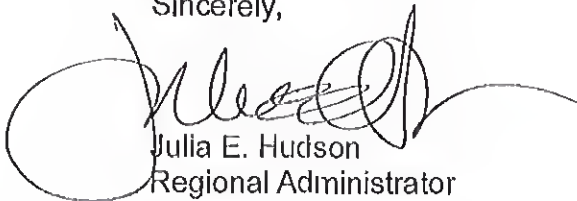
Goldstar is now implementing measures that will reduce the noise levels even further, regardless of weather conditions. These include enhanced system maintenance and the addition of two expansion tanks, which will enable the glycol coolant to operate more effectively at higher temperatures. These modifications will be made at no cost to the American taxpayer and will be completed by August 17, 2012.

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Finally, we are preparing to install a water-based cooling tower for the Terrorist Screening Center. This tower will become the primary means for cooling the system and dramatically reduce the need to operate the existing rooftop HVAC units, that have been the source of the noise problem. Design, procurement, and installation of the water-based cooling tower will take approximately six months and will result in the elimination of almost all perceivable noise from the building HVAC system. This process will also allow adequate time for testing, to ensure sound and system operation parameters are successfully met. The FBI has agreed to fund this improvement, which will also reduce energy consumption dramatically, and eventually pay for itself in lower operating costs.

GSA remains committed to resolving this issue. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rodney Emery, Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 501-0563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia E. Hudson', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia E. Hudson
Regional Administrator